

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 07610 172107Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 7610

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2
TAGS: MILI, SG
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION OF U.S. VIP VISIT BY SENEGALESE
CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL FALL

REF A USDAO DAKAR 131540Z JULY 77, B USDAO DAKAR (058)
181100Z FEB 77, C USCINCEUR DTG 191303Z JAN 77

1. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION: REFS A AND B CONTAINED
EXTENSIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NOMINATION OF MAJOR
GENERAL IDRISSE FALL, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE SENEGALESE ARMED
FORCES FOR THE DAY FY-78 VIP TOUR PROGRAM. SINCE NO RESPONSE
HAS BEEN RECEIVED, THE MISSION ASSUMES GEN. FALL HAS NOT BEEN
SELECTED FOR THE TOUR. I WOULD NEVERTHELESS LIKE TO GO ON
RECORD WITH THE STRONGEST ENDORSEMENT OF GEN. FALL'S
NOMINATION, AND URGE THAT HE BE CONSIDERED FOR AN ADD-ON
QUOTA FOR THE FY -78 PROGRAM. THIS INVITATION COULD BE
ISSUED BY CSA OR CJCS, AS EITHER WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN
GEN. FALL'S CASE. THE RATIONALE FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION IS
SET FORTH BELOW.

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2. SENEGAL HAS LONG BEEN A PROMINENT MODERATE VOICE IN
FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. ITS SPONSORSHIP OF THE NASCENT
WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (CEAO) MUTUAL DEFENSE
AND NON-AGRESSION PACT DEMONSTRATES THE KEY ROLE IT IS
PLAYING IN THE CURRENT COMMENDABLE EFFORTS OF MODERATE
AFRICAN STATES TO JOIN TOGETHER IN PROTECTING THEIR
INTERESTS. THE SENEGALESE-SPONSORED RESOLUTION ADOPTED

AT THE LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT CONDEMNING EXTERNAL (BY IMPLICATION, SOVIET AND CUBAN) INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS PROVIDED ANOTHER SIGN BOTH OF EFFECTIVE SENEGALESE DIPLOMACY AND OF THE NEW DETERMINATION OF THE MODERATES TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE IN DEFENDING THEIR INTERESTS AGAINST SOVIET OR OTHER LEFTIST INTERFERENCE.

3. INVITING GENERAL FALL TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVIDE US WITH AN IDEAL MEANS FOR ENCOURAGING SUCH AFRICAN INITIATIVES TO PROTECT MODERATE INTERESTS AND REGIONAL STABILITY, WITHOUT ENTAILING ANY OBLIGATION FOR AMERICAN MATERIEL SUPPORT OR SECURITY COMMITMENTS WHICH WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO OFFER. SUCH A VISIT WOULD SEND A USEFUL SIGNAL TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR THAT THE U.S. IS NOT FORGETTING MODERATE AFRICAN FRIENDS IN OUR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DIALOGUE WITH MORE RADICAL REGIMES AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

4. A VISIT BY GENERAL FALL WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A TIMELY COMPLEMENT TO THE MODEST PROGRAM OF U.S. BILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED (IN RESPONSE TO SENEGALESE REQUESTS FOR SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING). THE U.S. COULD MAXIMIZE THE MILEAGE IN GOODWILL GAINED FROM THE RECENTLY SIGNED \$8 MILLION CREDIT FOR CIVIC ACTION EQUIPMENT AND THE CURRENT TRAINING OF SEVERAL SENEGALESE OFFICERS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PROFESSIONAL COURSES BY INVITING GENERAL FALL FOR A VIP TOUR AT THIS TIME.

5. THERE ALWAYS REMAINS THE POSSIBILITY THAT, IN THE POST-SENGHOR ERA, THE MILITARY MAY ASSUME A MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN SENEGALESE POLITICS DESPITE THE WELL-ESTABLISHED TRADITION OF MILITARY DEFERENCE TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITY WHICH HAS GROWN UP IN THIS COUNTRY. DAKAR A-57 HAZARDED SOME HYPOTHESES ON THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL ROLE OF THE SENEGALESE MILITARY AND NOTED THE WIDE RESPECT IN WHICH GENERAL FALL IS HELD AND THE VIEW OF SOME OFFICERS THAT HE WOULD BE THE MOST PROBABLE CANDIDATE FOR HEAD OF STATE IF A MILITARY DOMINATED REGIME SHOULD SOMEDAY EMERGE. A COURTEOUS GESTURE TO GENERAL FALL AT THIS TIME WOULD HELP OPEN ADDITIONAL LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO THE SENEGALESE MILITARY IN THE SHORT RUN AND COULD PAY LONG-TERM DIVIDENDS FOR OUR FUTURE RELATIONS IN SENEGAL. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GENERAL FALL WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME AN AMERICAN INVITATION TO ALLOW HIM TO BALANCE PAST OFFICIAL VISITS TO NORTH KOREA AND THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND RE-ESTABLISH HIS FUNDAMENTAL WESTERN ORIENTATION.

6. I THUS BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE PERSUASIVE REASONS WHY
AN INVITATION TO GENERAL FALL TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES
IN FY-78 WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELL-TIMED AND MUTUALLY
ADVANTAGEOUS. I URGE THE U.S. AUTHORITIES WHO ARE
CONSIDERING CANDIDATES FOR THE VIP TOUR PROGRAM TO GIVE
GENERAL FALL'S NOMINATION EVERY POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION.
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